

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 PA-02 PRS-01 SSO-00
/039 W

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O R 301040Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO USUN MISSION NEW YROK IMMEDIATE 0000
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 2127

USIA FOR IAA, IOP/M

STATE FOR AF/S

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: RSA PRESS APRIL 29/30 ON NAMIBIA CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: ALL PAPERS REPORTED CONCLUSION NAMIBIA TALKS CAPE TOWN.
" PROGRESS" REPORTED, BUT NO SPECIFICS. MAJOR POINT MADE WAS THAT
"FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ARE ENVISAGED, PROBABLY AT A HIGHER LEVEL."
ROLES OF SWAPO AND U.N. APPARENTLY REMAIN KEY UNRESOLVED ISSUES.
AFRIKAANS PAPER POINTEDLY USED TERM " NAMIBIA" INSTEAD OF USUAL
"SWA." END SUMMARY.

1. JOHANNESBURG'S "DIE VADERLAND" APRIL 29 SPLASHED HEADLINE ON
FRONT PAGE " NAMIBIA: SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE." REPORT SAID SETTLEMENT
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COULD RESULT FROM ENVISAGED FURTHER TALKS, BUT ALSO COULD BE
TORPEDOED BY " MILITANT POSTURE OF MARXIST-ORIENTED SWAPO." REPORT
QUOTED NAMELESS WESTERN DIPLOMATS CLOSE TO CAPE TOWN TALKS SAYING
" MAJOR TASK NOW TO CONVINCE SWAPO TO PARTICIPATE IN FOUR-CORNERED
TALKS WITH WEST, SAG AND TURNHALLE." (PLEASE NOTE" POST BELIEVES
THIS FIRST TIME THIS OR ANY OTHER AFRIKAANS (PRO-SAG) PAPER HAS
USED TERM " NAMIBIA" INSTEAD OF USUAL " SWA".)

2. SAME PAPER EDITORIALIZED TALKS " PROBABLY ACCORDED TOO MUCH
DRAMATIC ANTICIPATION. IMPRESSION DEVELOPED THAT TALKS WERE MAKE
OR BREAK FOR SWA. WE DON'T AGREE. SUCCESS OF TALKS SHOULD BE MEASURED
IN TERMS OF WHETHER THEY OPEN WAY FOR FURTHER TALKS AT HIGHER LEVEL.
THE WESTERN DELEGATES NOT SO SENIOR OR INFLUENTIAL THAT FINAL
AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED THROUGH THEM. DESPITE VEIL OF SECRECY
OVER TALKS, THERE REMAINS POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS. THERE IS
SPECULATION ABOUT NEW SUMMIT ON HIGHER LEVEL- WITH POSSIBLE SWAPO
AND TURNHALLE PARTICIPATION. WE WOULD REGARD CAPE TOWN AS SUCCESS IF
IT SIMPLY LET TO HIGHER LEVEL SUMMIT, AND WE WOULD REGARD IT AS
BREAKTHROUGH IF TURNHALLE AND SWAPO WERE THEN BROUGHT TO CONFERENCE
TABLE."

3. JOHANNESBURG'S " THE STAR" APRIL 29 REPORTED " FURTHER ROUND OF TO
P
LEVEL TALKS NOW ON CARDS" AND SAID VORSTER PARTICIPATION" INDICATED
SOME PROGRESS MADE... THERE ARE INDICATIONS SAG PREPARED TO SEE IF
WESTERN AND TURNHALLE IDEAS ON U.N. ROLE IN HOLDING OF TERRITORY-WIDE
ELECTIONS CAN BE SYNCHRONIZED. AND WHETHER WAY CAN BE OPENED FOR
SWAPO TO TEST ITS POLITICAL STRENGTH IN REFERENDUM OR ELECTIONS
ALONGSIDE OTHER POLITICAL MOVEMENTS."

4. SAME PAPER EDITORIALIZED " MOST REGRETTABLE THAT WESTERN DELEGATES
AT NAMIBIA TALKS STEADFASTLY REFUSED MEET TURNHALLE COMMITTEE. THEIR
REASON FOR THIS SIGNIFICANT OMISSION APPARENTLY WAS THEY DID NOT
WANT TO COMPROMISE THEMSELVES WITH AN ACTION THAT MIGHT BE
CONSTRUED AS ACKNOWLEDGING LEGITIMACY OF TURNHALLE. THERE IS NO
TIME IN AFRICA FOR THESE LITTLE NICETIES. ONLY BY TALKING WITH ALL
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PARTIES INVOLVED IN SWA/NAMIBIA WILL WESTERN NATIONS GET BETTER AND
DEEPER INSIGHT INTO WHAT REALLY HAPPENS IN THE TERRITORY."

5. JOHANNESBURG'S " RAND DAILY MAIL" APRIL 30 REPORTED SAG " MAY
HAVE TO POSTPONE ITS INDEPENDENCE PLANS FOR SWA THIS YEAR... WHICH
WOULD MEAN TURNHALLE CONFERENCE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO POSTPONE ITS
PLANNED PETITION TO SAG FOR INTERIM GOVT LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE... I
T
APPEARS WESTERN ENVOYS ARGUED TURNHALLE SHOULD BE TURNED INTO
MULTIRACIAL POLITICAL MOVEMENT TO FIGHT OPEN ELECTIONS AGAINST
SWAPO." SAME STORY SAID AMBASSADOR YOUNG MAY VISIT RSA AFTER MAPUTO
CONFERENCE IN MAY AND QUOTED VP MONDALE SAYING PROGRESS ON RHOD-
ESIA AND MANIBIA ESSENTIAL TO REDUCE CIVIL WAR RISK IN RSA- ALSO
THAT MAJORITY RULE END NEXT YEAR IS " USA TARGET."

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TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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6. JOHANNESBURG'S " THE CITIZEN" APRIL 30 FRONT PAGE HEADLINE
" SUMMIT ENDS IN SOME SUCCESS." REPORT SAW " SECOND SUMMIT SHORTLY"
AND QUOTED TURNHALLE REPRESENTATIVES SAYING IN CAPE TOWN THEY WERE
"MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN EVER BEFORE THAT WEST MAY PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE
IN FINDING ACCEPTABLE CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION." REPORT ADDED: " SAG
AND TURNHALLE REACHED AGREEMENT WITH WESTERN POWERS THAT POLITICAL
EXILES SHOULD RETURN TO SWA, ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION BE
ABOLISHED, AND EVEN THAT RSA MILITARY PRESENCE AND TOTAL RSA WITH-
DRAWAL FROM SWA ADMINISTRATION WAS NEGOTIABLE. ONLY UNRESOLVED ISSUE
WAS THAT OF FREE ELECTIONS UNDER U.N. SUPERVISION WITH SWAPO
PARTICIPATION... DEFINITION OF ' SUPERVISION' YET TO BE SETTLED AND
WILL BE ONE OF MAIN TOPICS AT NEXT SUMMIT." REPORT CONCLUDED
TURNHALLE CONFERENCE " WILL PRESS AHEAD FOR INTERIM GOVT REGARDLESS
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OF PRELIMINARY OUTCOME OF CAPE TOWN SUMMIT."

7. JOHANNESBURG'S " BEELD" FRONT PAGE HEADLINE "RSA AND WEST TO
TALK AGAIN." REPORT SAID " ENVISAGED CONTINUATION OF TALKS ONE OF

MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS OF CAPE TOWN, AND COULD TAKE PLACE DURING MAY. DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS SEE POSITIVE PROSPECTS AHEAD."

8. JOHANNESBURG'S "DIE TRANSVALER" APRIL 30 REPORTED CAPE TOWN TALKS " ENDED ON POSITIVE NOTE WITH ANNOUNCEMENT FURTHER TALKS ENVISAGED. AFTER INTENSIVE BARGAINING THERE WERE SIGNS OF MOVEMENT TOWARDS CONSENSUS."

9. SAME PAPER CARRIED CAUTIOUSLY WORDED EDITORIAL SAYING " CERTAIN UNREALISTIC DEMANDS WERE PUT TO RSA DURING THESE DIFFICULT TALKS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT PROGRESS WAS NOT MADE... FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AT HIGHER LEVEL WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL APPROACH AND DEGREE OF MATURITY."

10. DURBAN'S " NATAL MERCURY" APRIL 30 FRONT PAGE HADLINE " PROGRESS SEEN IN TOUGH SWA TALKS." REPORT SAID FURTHER TALKS ON NAMIBIA " DEFINITE" AND "OBSERVERS SAW THIS AS SIGN OF CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS."

11. CAPE TOWN'S CAPE TIMES" APRIL 30 REPORTED THERE WILL BE " MORE TALKS TO HAMMER OUT AN ACCEPTABLE INDEPENDENCE PROCESS IN SWA" AND INTERPRETED TWO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ISSUED CAPE TOWN AS MEANING FURTHER TALKS WILL BE " AT AN EVEN HIGHER LEVEL.. A CLEAR MEASURE OF PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. THERE IS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON SEVERAL ISSUES, BUT MANY OBSTACLES REMAIN." HUGHES

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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